



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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RL:0330A

SB 612
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AND LITTER CONTROL

Statement for
Senate Committees on
Ecology, Environment and Recreation
Judiciary
Public Hearing, 28 February 1979

This statement, originally used for testimony on House Bill 583, applies also to its companion Senate Bill 1591.



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HB 417, HB 583, HB 1565 RELATING TO LITTER CONTROL GENERALLY AND TO BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

Statement for
House Committee on
Ecology and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing, 23 February 1979

By
Doak C. Cox
A. Daniel Burhans
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Environmental Center

HB 417, HB 583, and HB 1565 propose amendments to HRS 339, the State's litter control law. This statement in the bills does not reflect an institutional position of the University.

HB 417

HB 417 would amend subsection HRS 339-7(b), so as to limit the present ban on plastic beverage containers to those of less than 32 ounce size.

We draw to the attention of the committee the fact that a report on the economic impact of proposed beverage container legislation has been prepared by Hugh Folk et. al. of the College of Business Administration. We understand that this report has not yet been officially released, but that it indicates that:

- 1) Use of 6-7 oz. plastic containers is not generally economically feasible, very few are now used, and their use should be discouraged.
- 2) "One-way" plastic containers like "one-way" glass containers are not now recyclable and thus their use leads to a litter and solid waste nuisance and expense to the community.
- 3) Plastic containers of 32 oz. size and larger are popular size, could be manufactured here and reused, and contribute only very slightly to the litter problem.

The provision of HB 417 this seem appropriate.

HB 583

HB 583, which would amend HRS 339-1, 339-4, and 339-8 and also HRS 291C-132, appears to be primarily a housekeeping bill, although it would make a few substantive changes in the litter control law. Appropriate justification for the bill has been provided by the DOH. We have only two minor comments on the bill.

The proposed expansion of the definition of "litter" (page 2, lines 18-22) does not really seem to alter the meaning.

The proposed revision of the definition of "litter receptacle" is more concise and less limiting than the original.

HB 1565

HB 1526 would delete the ban on plastic beverage containers from HRS 338-7. In the light of our comments on HB 417, it would seem that the partial deletion proposed in that bill is more appropriate.